

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31 are pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for rejoining claims 7-9. Applicants further request the rejoinder of claims 10-30. Claims 10-30 are directed to carrier features, namely the docking system, the controller, an air tube system and a method of transferring security documents.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the amendment filed on June 27, 2006 alleging that the amendment introduces new matter into the disclosure. See Office Action at p. 2. Specifically, the Examiner contends that "the introduction of the commercial Bi-Lock™" is not supported by the original disclosure. *Id.* Applicants disagree with the Examiner.

The commercial bi-lock was described in the application as filed. See for example, originally filed claim 2, page 2, lines 21, page 7, lines 27-28, and page 12, line 31 to page 13, line 1 of the specification. The amendments filed on June 27, 2006 were made to clarify that the term "bi-lock" was a lock known to the public as a "Bi-Lock™." In support of this, the product disclosure of a "Bi-Lock™," which is publicly available, was submitted as Attachment A on June 27, 2006. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter was added. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the proposed drawing amendment of June 27, 2006 as containing new matter. See Office Action at p.2. The Examiner has further objected to the drawings as "[t]he shutter mechanisms of claim(s) 4 have not been adequately depicted; in particular, the closing mechanism." *Id.* The drawings are further objected to as "nothing in the drawings reflect[s] that the base of claim(s) 1 is removable." See Office Action at p. 2. The Examiner further requires that "the lock of claim(s) 1" be shown in the drawings. See Office Action at p. 2-3.

The shutter mechanism of claim 4, in particular the closing mechanism, is adequately depicted. Fig. 2A shows that the shutter is retained in an open position using latch 17D (see Replacement Drawing submitted June 27, 2006). When the latch 17D is released (as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2A), the shutter 17B is automatically urged into a closed position by a biasing means such as the spring biasing means, S. See page 8, lines 3-10. Thus, Fig. 2A adequately depicts a spring biasing means, S and the closing mechanism.

Fig. 2A also depicts the removable base described in claim 1. Base 18 is shown in both dotted lines and solid lines. The dotted lines indicate the removed base 18. The solid lines show base 18 when it is mounted to the carrier. The lock for retaining the base in place is also depicted in Fig. 2A as L. Support for the removable base can be found at, for example, page 7, lines 25-27. Support for the lock that retains the base in place can be found at, for example, page 7, lines 27-28.

Thus, the specification supports the amendments to the drawings and that no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection and further request entry of the Replacement Drawing submitted on June 27, 2006.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31 "as failing to comply with the enablement requirement." See Office Action at p. 3. The Examiner indicates that this rejection is "substantially as applied on 3/29/06." See Office Action at p. 4. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action mailed March 29, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the Examiner was "not asserting that the claim(s) are not enabled but rather that the claimed features as envisioned by the applicant have not been delineated." See Office Action mailed March 29, 2006 at p. 4. The Examiner further states that "[w]ith regard to claim(s) 1, the applicant's preferred embodiment, i.e. the best mode, of the lock has not been disclosed." *Id.* Applicants respectfully disagree and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

MPEP 2165.02 states that “[t]he best mode requirement is a separate and distinct requirement from the enablement requirement of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112.” Further, “[t]he examiner should assume that the best mode is disclosed in the application, unless evidence is presented that is inconsistent with that assumption.” See MPEP 2165.03.

Applicants remind the Examiner that there is no requirement in the statute “that applicants point out which of their embodiments they consider to be their best; that the disclosure includes the best mode contemplated by applicants is enough to satisfy the statute.” See MPEP 2165.01(III). The specification includes the best mode contemplated by the Applicants. The Examiner has not provided a *prima facie* case that the best mode is not disclosed in the specification.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not met “the initial burden to establish a reasonable basis to question the enablement provided for the claimed invention.” See MPEP 2164.04. “[T]he minimal requirement is for the examiner to give reasons for the uncertainty of the enablement.” See MPEP 2164.04. The Examiner has not done so here. It is unclear to the Applicants why the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31. The specification describes in detail, a carrier for transferring security documents and claimed features of the carrier throughout the specification. See for example, pages 7-14 of the specification. Applicants have informed and demonstrated to a person having ordinary skill in the art how to use the invention commensurate in scope with the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31.

Applicant : Menday et al.
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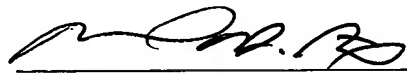
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections. Applicants believe that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Should any fees be required by the present Reply, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account **19-4293**.

Respectfully submitted,

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